

Washington State Patrol Fact Sheet

Chief Lowell M. Porter



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The Washington State Patrol headquarters are located in Olympia, near the capitol campus in the General Administration building. The head of WSP is Chief Lowell M. Porter. The Office of the Chief oversees the statewide operations of the agency as well as other agency services, including:

- Labor and Risk Management: works with all labor bargaining units on issues, bargaining agreement negotiations, and implementation and training on bargaining agreements; coordinating the Risk Management program; assisting with in-service and basic training for employees; and providing assistance to the Chief on policy-related matters.
- Government and Media Relations:
 - legislative liaison: coordinates agency legislation with legislators, committees, and other state agencies. The liaison also reviews and seeks input from interested stakeholders on agency legislation and answers policy questions for legislative constituents.
 - Media relations: Personnel assigned to Government and Media Relations provide assistance and training to the district public information officers, answer media inquiries dealing with agency policy, publish agency media releases and monitor regional news broadcasts and publications.
- The Department Psychologist: The primary responsibility of the psychologist is to counsel employees after involvement in traumatic critical incidents.
- Audit and inspection services: Provides internal audit and inspection services for the Office of the Chief, performs annual risk assessment analysis, conducts audits and inspections throughout the Washington State Patrol, and provides compliance guidance to the agency.
- Also under the chief are six different bureaus, each led by a bureau director or Deputy Chief:
 1. Field Operations Bureau: is primarily responsible for traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assists on 17,524 miles of state and interstate highways. The bureau is comprised of eight districts, and the Special Operations Division.

- District 1: is situated in Western Washington and serves most of Pierce County and all of Thurston County. The District headquarters is located in Tacoma with detachment offices located in Olympia and Gig Harbor.
- District 2: is situated in Western Washington and serves portions of northern Pierce County and all of King County. The District headquarters is located in Bellevue with detachment offices located in North Bend, North Seattle, South Seattle, Enumclaw, and Bellevue.
- District 3: encompasses all of south central and southeast Washington from Yakima County to Idaho. Along with Yakima County, the district includes Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Garfield, Columbia, and Asotin Counties. The district headquarters is in Union Gap. There are detachment offices in Sunnyside, Kennewick, and Walla Walla.
- District 4: includes the seven Eastern Washington counties of Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman. Detachment offices are located in Colfax, Colville, Ritzville, and Spokane.
- District 5: includes the five counties located in southwest Washington: Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Cowlitz, and Lewis. In addition to the district office located in Vancouver, there are four detachment offices located in Chehalis, Morton, Kelso, and Goldendale.
- District 6: covers the largest geographical area of any district. The population for the five-plus county area is approximately 250,000. The district headquarters is in Wenatchee, and detachments are also located in Okanogan, Ephrata, Moses Lake, and Ellensburg. District 6 contains widely diverse and unique natural features.
- District 7: is responsible for the northern Puget Sound Region, covering from the King/Snohomish County line to the Canadian Border, from the top of the Cascades through the San Juan Islands. We actively patrol Snohomish, Skagit, Island, and Whatcom Counties, and have jurisdictional responsibility for San Juan County, assisting the San Juan County Sheriff when requested. District 7's jurisdiction includes the Washington State Ferry routes and their terminals at Mukilteo, Clinton, Edmonds, and Anacortes.
- District 8: is situated along the Pacific coastline of Washington State with headquarters in Bremerton. The district provides service in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, and

Wahkiakum Counties. It covers more than 1,700 miles of state highways, and its jurisdiction has been enlarged to include vessel and terminal security (VATS) on the Washington State ferry system. Detachments are located in Hoquiam, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Raymond, and Shelton

- The Special Operations Division is comprised of:
 - The Aviation Section: provides aerial traffic enforcement, traffic congestion management, and other aerial law enforcement services in support of the Patrol's public safety mission.
 - Executive Services Section: provides security and protection for the Governor, his family, and the Lieutenant Governor. This includes security at the Governor's Mansion. This section also provides security for visiting dignitaries as directed by the Governor or Chief.
 - This division also oversees Vessel and Terminal Security (VATS) and the Awards Committee.
 - The Field Operations Bureau also oversees the following:
 - The Explosives Unit (or bomb squad) was established to provide assistance to agencies and individuals in the rendering safe of identified explosives or suspected explosive devices and materials. Members provide training in the areas of suspicious letters, packages, devices, and explosives to emergency response personnel and to public and private sector entities.
 - The Honor Guard was established in 1984 and is available for funerals of active department members, active officers of other agencies, and other functions as the Chief may designate.
 - The Canine Unit
 - The Problem Oriented Public Safety (POPS) program is also administered by the Field Operations Bureau
2. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Bureau, provides services to fire agencies, government agencies, members of the media, and the public. Services include fire investigations; fire incident data collection; fire code review and adoption; construction plan review; fire inspections of high risk occupancies housing elderly and vulnerable populations; licensing of the fireworks and sprinkler industry; fire service training; public education; and coordination of fire service resources during disaster. Divisions of the Fire Protection Bureau include:
- Mobilization/Responder Readiness Division, Assistant State Fire Marshal Steve Kalmbach, provides planning, training, and technical assistance for emergency response to incidents involving hazardous

materials, earthquakes, nuclear facilities, and other high-risk emergencies.

- The Hazardous Materials Unit conducts ongoing hazardous materials recognition and operations training for Washington State Patrol (WSP) personnel and local fire, law enforcement, and EMS responders and includes:
 - Hazardous Material Awareness, Operations and Technician Levels
 - Hazardous Material On-Scene Incident Command
 - Train-the-Trainer
 - Chemistry of Hazardous Materials
- Basic Firefighter Training Unit provides a training reimbursement program offered to fire departments throughout the state to ensure fire departments have access to affordable, accessible training. The program has provided training to over 2,500 students statewide
- Standards and Accreditation Unit provide certification testing of fire personnel through written and practical examinations. The State Fire Marshal's Office became accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress in 1995. Currently, seven IFSAC levels are available to fire service personnel for certification: Firefighter I and II, HazMat Operations, Fire Instructor I and II, Fire Investigator, and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I.
- Information, Data, Education and Administration Division, Acting Assistant State Fire Marshal Anjela T. Foster consists of:
 - The Fire Code Section is active in developing state and national fire codes and providing technical code assistance to state license facilities and other governmental agencies.
 - The Public Education Section develops and provides fire safety education to the public, the media, and the fire service, including Fire Prevention Week, Risk Watch injury prevention curriculum, arson awareness, and fireworks injury prevention.
 - The Data Collection Section is responsible for collecting, analyzing and developing an annual report of the emergency responses of Washington's 535 fire departments and capturing the economic toll fire has in Washington each year.
- Fire Training Academy, Assistant State Fire Marshal Robert Neale, is located near North Bend, offers a multitude of training courses to fire departments, private industry, military, and maritime personnel; training over 5,000 students annually. The Academy offers basic recruit firefighter

training, hazardous materials, confined space rescue, aircraft rescue and firefighting, structural firefighting, flammable liquids/gas, and shipboard firefighting.

- Enforcement, Regulation and Investigation Division, Acting Assistant State Fire Marshal Anjela Foster consists of:
 - The Fire and Life Safety Inspection Section conducts fire and life safety inspections in nursing homes, residential care facilities (boarding homes), group homes and child care centers housing over 50,000 high risk residents.
 - The Licensing Section is responsible for administering and enforcing the state's fireworks law (RCW 70.77) and the fire sprinkler contractors' licensing law (RCW 18.160).
 - Fire investigation assistance is provided to requesting local jurisdictions where there is a loss of life, a strong probability of arson, or large financial impact to a community.
3. Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau: Under bureau Director Dr. Barry Logan, this bureau provides a wide range of forensic science expertise to city, county, and state law enforcement officers, assisting agencies at crime scenes, preparing evidence for trial, and providing expert testimony. The bureau coordinates the efforts of :
- Six Crime Laboratories operates four full-service crime laboratories in addition to three limited service laboratories throughout the state. The Patrol labs provide quality forensic services and training to over 300 law enforcement agencies within Washington State. All laboratories are accredited through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
 - The State Toxicology Laboratory was established in 1963, performs drug and alcohol testing for coroners, medical examiners, law enforcement agencies, prosecuting attorneys, and the State Liquor Control Board in all 39 Washington counties. The laboratory receives 8,000 cases per year of which approximately 50 percent are law enforcement DUI cases and 50 percent coroner/medical examiner cases. The laboratory is overseen by the State Toxicologist and the laboratory manager and has a staff of 10 toxicologists and 4 support staff. Toxicologists accession samples in rotation and spend an average of two days a week testifying in court as experts on alcohol, drugs, and their effects. The laboratory is located at 2203 Airport Way South in Seattle.
 - The Implied Consent Section includes:
 - The State's Breath Alcohol Test Program which:

- maintains all evidentiary breath-testing instruments in the state and provides all recertification training.
 - provides computerized statistical data and analysis related to DUI enforcement to members of the criminal justice community.
 - provides expert witness testimony in support of the statewide breath alcohol testing program.
 - Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DEC)
 - recognize the symptoms of intoxication for seven different categories of drugs.
 - The Washington State Patrol provides training to both troopers and officers from local law enforcement agencies. Currently, there are 120 Drug Recognition Experts in the State of Washington.
4. Investigative Services Bureau consists of five divisions that provide various public services, including:
- The Commercial Vehicle Division, which is involved with a number of educational and enforcement programs to ensure compliance with commercial motor vehicle regulations. Our programs protect resources, prevent collisions, and save lives. They include:
 - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA)
 - School Bus Inspections
 - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (size, weight, load)
 - Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)
 - Compliance Review
 - Equipment and Standards
 - Investigative Assistance Division consists of:
 - The Narcotics Section
 - Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU)
 - Computer Forensics Unit
 - Statewide Incident Response Team (SIRT)
 - Missing Children Clearinghouse, and Missing and Exploited Children Task Force
 - Office of Professional Standards (OPS), provides oversight responsibility for the agency's complaint and disciplinary procedures. OPS is tasked with ensuring the disciplinary process is conducted fairly; that all administrative investigations are complete, impartial, objective, and consistent; and that standardized discipline is imposed. In accordance with Executive Order 96-01, this office also conducts major administrative investigations involving employees of the Department of Social and Health Services

- Evidence and Records Division is comprised of the Public Records Section and the Evidence Section. It oversees and manages all areas of public records and disclosure issues for the agency. It also administers the agencies policies regarding property and evidence handling, ensuring compliance to state mandates and CALEA standards.
- Criminal Investigation Division conducts investigations into vehicle homicide, vehicular assault, and felony hit-and-run collisions. Additionally, the division investigates crimes committed on the Capitol Campus, threats against elected officials, and felony crimes discovered by uniformed troopers. CID, at the request of the State Auditor's Office, conducts investigations regarding whistleblower complaints, and contracts with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for criminal investigations involving DSHS employees. CID also conducts investigations statewide involving fuel tax fraud and auto theft and conducts salvage/rebuild VIN inspections. CID partners with the Crime Laboratory Division and the Identification Section to provide comprehensive investigations of crime scenes at the request of any law enforcement agency.

5. Management Services Bureau, Bureau Director Diane Perry, oversees:

- Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS) is responsible for the management of all agency financial activities and allotting the department's operating and capital budgets. The division consists of the Accounting Section, Accounts Payable Section, Budget Section, Grants and Contracts Section, Financial Systems Development Section, Payroll Section, and the Travel Section
- The Human Resources (HRD) provides human resource services to Washington State Patrol employees, the agency, and the public. HRD processes trooper applications and maintains eligibility lists in accordance with Field Operations Bureau staffing needs. HRD also conducts position reviews and promotional examinations.
- The Property Management Division is responsible for providing comprehensive facilities management through the capital and operating budget process. The Property Management Division consists of:
 - The Fleet Section: acquires, outfits, and maintains patrol vehicles and related emergency equipment for the agency. In addition, Fleet Section personnel manage a statewide replacement and retirement schedule for all vehicles.
 - The Property Management Section: is responsible for the requisition, construction, maintenance, and disposal of all departmental facilities. For example, they oversee detachment office design and construction, electronic scale design and

installation, fuel tank upgrades, underground storage tank monitoring and replacement, and storage facilities construction and equipping.

- The Supply Section: provides in-depth materials management through acquisition, asset accountability, and disposal of purchased and stored supplies. The Supply Section is responsible for ordering and issuing equipment and uniform items for the entire agency.

- Research and Planning:

- Performs agency studies, research, revises manuals, works on performance measures, develops regulations, tracks relevant legislation, and serves as a resource center for the agency.
- Provides planning and policy support to all divisions of the department.
- Ensures compliance with accreditation standards set by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

6. The Technical Services Bureau provides many diverse services to the entire department, other law enforcement and government agencies, and members of the general public. These services include information technology, employee training and development, emergency communications, and criminal history. Divisions reporting to the bureau include:

- The Communications Division: operates a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year statewide emergency communications system, which includes eight centers. The division provides emergency dispatch services for mobile units of the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Department of Fish and Wildlife, Liquor Control Board, Department of Transportation, State Parks, and other state and federal agencies.

- The Criminal Records Division consists of:

- The Criminal Telecommunications: The Criminal Telecommunications Section manages and operates A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS), which provides telecommunications linkage to law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, and associated state databases. The system allows contact with other agencies nationwide through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and access to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) files.
- Identification and Criminal History: is the central repository for the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) in the state of Washington. Fingerprint arrest cards and subsequent disposition information are submitted by local criminal justice agencies and entered into a mainframe computer database. The Identification

and Criminal History Section provides state and national fingerprint background checks on individuals where required by statute.

- Records: As the repository for all police traffic collision reports, the Records Section provides data and statistical information to more than 250 federal, state, and local jurisdictions. The information is used to analyze crash factors and to develop programs enhancing highway safety.
- The Electronic Services Division (ESD) consists of two major sections:
 - The Technology Engineering Section provides the Washington State Patrol with engineering skills in communication, electronic, networking, analog, and digital designs.
 - The Field Support Section is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all Washington State Patrol communications equipment and systems, consisting of portable radio, mobile radio, mobile computer systems, speed-measuring devices, communications center radio, and vehicle installations.
- The Information Technology Division (ITD) is a customer-oriented division which supports the Washington State Patrol in evaluating new software, writing/developing highly complex programs, and providing project managers to manage information technology. This section includes a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week operation to monitor mission-critical programs and to provide computer customer support for all of the State Patrol.
- The Training Division administers all training programs for WSP employees. The Training Academy, located in Shelton, identifies agency training needs and develops and implements programs conducted at the Academy and throughout the state. Additionally, the Academy has a nationally recognized Emergency Vehicle Operators Training Program used by law enforcement agencies throughout Washington State. The Training Division also provides training for other law enforcement agencies.

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